

Message Text

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54

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TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC - AGENDA ITEM 30: REPORT OF THE UNITED
NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (E/5853) AND
DRAFT RESOLUTION E/L.1730

1. SUMMARY: QUOTED BELOW AS PARAGRAPH SEVEN OF THIS TELEGRAM
IS A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON UNHCR DRAFTED BY PAKISTAN AND CO-SPONSORED
BY ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, IRAN, IVORY COAST,
JORDAN AND YUGOSLAVIA. THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IS SCHEDULED TO BE
INTRODUCED IN PLENARY ON 28 JULY WITH FINAL ACTION TO BE TAKEN
EITHER ON 28 JULY OR 29 JULY. PAKISTAN AND DEPUTY UNHCR, CHARLES
MACE, HAVE ASKED IF THE US IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CO-SPONSOR.
THE US ECOSOC DELEGATION HEREBY REQUESTS THE COMMENTS AND
INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DEPT ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY

2. THE COUNCIL BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM ON 26 JULY AND
AFTER FIRST RECEIVING A LETTER DATED 23 JULY ADDRESSED TO THE

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES (LETTER REPRODUCED AS PARAGRAPH SIX OF THIS
TELEGRAM), HEARD A LONG INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER
ON THE FUNCTIONAL EVOLUTION OF HIS OFFICE ESPECIALLY OVER
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THE PAST FEW YEARS AND ESPECIALLY PERTAINING TO INSTITUTIONAL

DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT TO HIS OFFICE IN THE FRAMEWORK
OF SO-CALLED "MAN MADE DISASTERS."

3. BRIEF STATEMENTS WARMLY PRAISING THE WORK OF UNHCR AND ITS
HIGH COMMISSIONER, PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAM, WERE
MADE BY ALGERIA, PAKISTAN, YEMEN, FRANCE, YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA,
GREECE AND THAILAND WITH PAKISTAN INDICATING IT PLANNED TO TABLE
A DRAFT RESOLUTION. THE OBSERVER FOR THE OAU ALSO MADE A SHORT
STATEMENT EULOGIZING UNHCR.

4. THE US DELEGATION IS IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING AN ENGLISH
TEXT OF THE PRINCE'S 20 PAGE STATEMENT, DELIVERED IN FRENCH,
WHICH WILL BE PROMPTLY POUCHED TO THE DEPT.

5. COMMENT: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS RESOLUTION IS THAT
INTER ALIA IT WOULD IN EFFECT SANCTIFY WHAT HAS ALREADY OCCURED
IN SEVERAL INSTANCES (E.G. CYPRUS) BE EXTENDING UNHCR'S
MANDATED FUNCTIONS TO INCLUDE ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS "DISPLACED"
WITHIN THEIR OWN NATIONAL TERRITORY AS A RESULT OF MAN-MADE
DISASTERS, AS DISTINCT FROM "REFUGEES" WHO CROSS NATIONAL
BOUNDARIES. WE NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN
UNDRO'S COORDINATING ROLE IN NATURAL AND "OTHER"DISASTERS
AND UNHCR'S OPERATIONS FUNCTION, WHICH WE BELIEVE CAN BE
RECONCILED THROUGH PROPER COOPERATION.

6. BEGIN TEXT.

LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1976 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE COUNCIL BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO MY REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN THE
ECOSOC AGENDA OF AN ITEM ENTITLED "REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES". THE ITEM IS SCHEDULED TO BE TAKEN
UP BY THE COUNCIL ON MONDAY, 26 JULY 1976.

IN THIS CONNEXION, A NUMBER OF QUERIES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED TO
MY OFFICE BY DELEGATES TO THE COUNCIL ON THE CONTENTS OF MY
STATEMENT ON MONDAY AND ON THE SUBJECTS THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE
COMMENTS UPON. IN ORDER NOT TO BURDEN THE COUNCIL'S WORKLOAD, I
CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO CLARIFY THE EXACT CONTEXT OF THIS AGENDA
ITEM AND THE REASONS FOR WHICH MY OFFICE REQUESTED ITS INCLUSION:
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(I) AS REPRESENTATIVES ARE AWARE, THE COUNCIL DECIDED SOME
YEARS AGO THAT "THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT WOULD BE
TRANSMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITHOUT DEBATE UNLESS THE
COUNCIL DECIDED OTHERWISE AT THE REQUEST OF ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OR
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA".
THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY AND IT IS NOT MY INTENTION
TO SUGGEST A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF SITUATIONS EXAMINED IN THE
REPORT CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/5853 OF 2 JUNE 1976.

(II) CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO COMMENT ON ANY SPECIFIC SITUATION OF CONCERN TO UNHCR WHICH IS COVERED BY THE ABOVE-MENTIONED REPORT.

(III) THE PURPOSE OF MY REQUEST WAS EXCLUSIVELY TO INFORM THE COUNCIL, IN A PURELY TECHNICAL CONTEXT, OF THE FUNCTIONAL EVOLUTION OF MY OFFICE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. MY STATEMENT TO THE COUNCIL WOULD, THEREFORE, DEAL ONLY WITH INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO MY OFFICE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SO-CALLED "MAN-MADE DISASTERS".

THIS WOULD ENABLE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, WHO MAY SO WISH, TO DIRECT THEIR COMMENT TO THE TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF UNHCR'S ACTIVITIES.

I WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD SHARE THE ABOVE WITH THE COUNCIL IN ANY MANNER THAT YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE.

(SIGNED) SADRUDDIN AGA KHAM

7. BEGIN TEXT.

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, IRAN, IVORY COAST,
JORDAN, PAKISTAN AND YUGOSLAVIA: DRAFT RESOLUTION

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,
RECALLING GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3454 (XXX) OF 9 DECEMBER 1975 AND EARLIER PERTINENT RESOLUTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELATING TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, REAFFIRMING THE EMINENTLY HUMANITARIAN CHARACTER OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE BENEFIT OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS,

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ESSENTIAL HUMANITARIAN TASKS UNDERTAKEN BY HIS OFFICE IN THE CONTEXT OF MAN-MADE DISASTERS, IN ADDITION TO ITS ORIGINAL FUNCTIONS,

NOTING THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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REFUGEES 1/ AND THE ORAL STATEMENT MADE BY HIM ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HIS HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES, 2/

1. COMMENDS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS, VICTIMS OF MAN-MADE DISASTERS, REQUIRING URGENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE;

2. REQUESTS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CONTINUE HIS ACTIVITIES, IN CO-OPERATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, UNITED NATIONS BODIES, APPROPRIATE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, FOR ALLEVIATING THE SUFFERING OF ALL THOSE OF CONCERN TO HIS OFFICE AND PROMOTING PERMANENT AND SPEEDY SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF URGENTLY REQUIRED RELIEF ASSISTANCE, VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THEIR REHABILITATION, INTEGRATION OR RESETTLEMENT;

3. CALLS UPON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE AND FURTHER STRENGTHEN ITS SUPPORT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER;

4. TRANSMITS THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES 1/ TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS
THIRTY-FIRST SESSION.

1/ E/5853 AND CORR.1

1/ E/5853 AND CORR.1.

2/ E/SR.2027.

END TEXT ABRAMS

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